



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3140 N Street, Lincoln NE 68510 • Phone: 441-8000

Fax: 441-6229

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Renae Rief 402- 441-4602

## **LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards will be held on Friday, June 3, at the Nebraska Champions Club. The ceremony will recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental stewardship and dedication to sustainable practices that improve our air, land, and water quality while protecting public health.

The award presentations are intended to inspire others to follow the models and examples set by these 2011 Environmental Leadership Award recipients. Award winners this year include:

- ***Business and Industry – ServiceMaster Professional Maintenance of Lincoln***

Angela and John Paolini, owners of ServiceMaster, did not just want to talk “Green”, they wanted to prove they were “Green”, and reduce their business’s environmental impact. They began the process of green certification in their cleaning services in 2008, and became the only cleaning service in Nebraska to obtain GS-42 certification in 2009. That is the Green Seal Environmental Standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services. GS-42 establishes requirements for cleaning service providers of commercial, public, and institutional buildings to create a green cleaning program that protects human health and the environment.

- ***Education – Bob Kuzelka***

Bob Kuzelka is a professor that has inspired hundreds of students to pursue environmental careers. Bob’s dedication to educating students, his past work as the University of Nebraska Lincoln’s Environmental Studies Director, and his personal commitment to protecting and preserving our environment has led to him being a recipient of the 2011 Environmental Leadership Award for education.

- ***Community Organization – Marcia Mueting, Pharm., R.P. – Nebraska Medication Education Disposal Strategies Committee***

Dr. Marcia Mueting, with the Nebraska Pharmacists Association, has developed the Nebraska Medication Education and Disposal Strategies Committee, also known as the Nebraska MEDS

project. She spent significant time seeking stakeholders, learning the issues, and reviewing the state and federal laws and regulations. Under Marcia's leadership, they designed and created ten panels for public display and distributed 30,000 bookmarks, and 600 informational brochures. Materials were sent out to 466 pharmacies throughout the state. With Marcia's vision, creativity, and boundless energy, the Nebraska MEDS project is making a difference in helping to protect public health and our groundwater.

- ***Government – Nebraska Environmental Trust***

The Nebraska Environmental Trust has provided exceptional leadership, and coordinated efforts to identify and fund strong environmental conservation and educational projects in Lancaster County and across Nebraska. The impact of the Trust in Lincoln and Lancaster County alone includes 139 projects and approximately \$15 million of funding to date. This funding allowed for the restoration and management of Holmes Lake watershed and the Saline Wetlands north of town, along with community-treasured projects at the Lincoln Children's Zoo and Pioneers Park Nature Center. From supporting threatened and endangered species to improving local water quality, the Nebraska Environmental Trust has had a tremendous impact.

- ***Agriculture – Walt Bagley – Prairie Pines***

Over the last six decades Walt Bagley has worked quietly to improve our environment. For over 30 years he taught for University of Nebraska - Lincoln and conducted research related to agricultural tree windbreaks. In 1965 he and his wife, Virginia, planted "Prairie Pines," Nebraska's first Christmas tree farm. In 1982, Prairie Pines became the first property with a conservation easement in Nebraska.

- ***Individual Citizen – Adam Hintz – Meadowlark Coffee & Espresso***

Adam Hintz, local coffee shop owner of Meadowlark Coffee and Espresso exemplifies a sustainable approach to work and to life. His shop serves local and organic food and drinks, and the participatory business structure offers a positive work environment for the staff. Hintz is a leader in a number of local environmental organizations and initiatives, and a role model for green, simple living at his home and in his garden.

- ***Individual Citizen – Marilyn McNabb***

Marilyn McNabb has done extensive work advocating for environmental sustainability in Lincoln. She personally has transformed her yard into a vast array of native plants and recently installed solar panels on her home. Marilyn has been an integral part of various committees the past 20 years establishing policies and working to protect our environment.

Mayor Chris Beutler and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Chair Deb Schorr will be providing opening and closing comments. Rod Fowler from Channel 8 KLKN TV will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and presentations will highlight the accomplishments of each of the award recipients.

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